

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS REGULATION

**DEPARTMENT OF  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS & ENERGY**

**ONE SOUTH STATION**

**Boston, MA 02110  
(617) 305-3500**

**MITT ROMNEY**  
GOVERNOR

**KERRY HEALEY**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**BETH LINDSTROM**  
DIRECTOR  
OFFICE OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
AND BUSINESS REGULATION

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COMMISSIONER

October 14, 2003

Andrew J. Newman  
Rubin and Rudman LLP  
50 Rowes Wharf  
Boston, MA 02110-3319

Re: Blackstone Gas Company, D.T.E. 03-73

Dear Mr. Newman:

Enclosed please find the Department of Telecommunications and Energy's First Set of Information Requests to Blackstone Gas Company( "the Company") issued in the above-captioned matter. Please submit the Company's responses on or before 5 P.M., Tuesday, October 28, 2003.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth A. Cellucci  
Hearing Officer

Enc.

cc: Mary Cottrell, Secretary  
Carol Wasserman, Division of Energy Resources  
Wilner Borgella, Office of the Attorney General

**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY**

FIRST SET OF INFORMATION REQUESTS OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY  
TO BLACKSTONE GAS COMPANY  
D.T.E. 03-73

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Pursuant to 220 C.M.R. § 1.06 (6)(c), the Department of Telecommunications and Energy ("Department") submits to Blackstone Gas Company, or "Blackstone", or "the Company", the following Information Requests:

**INSTRUCTIONS**

The following instructions apply to this set of Information Requests and all subsequent Information Requests issued by the Department to the Company in this proceeding.

1. Each request should be answered in writing on a separate three-hole punched page with a recitation of the request, a reference to the request number, the docket number of the case and the name of the person responsible for the answer.
2. Please do not wait for all answers to be completed before supplying answers. Provide the answers as they are completed.
3. These requests shall be deemed continuing so as to require further supplemental responses if the Company or its witness receives or generates additional information within the scope of these requests between the time of the original response and the close of the record in this proceeding.
4. The term "provide complete and detailed documentation" means:  
  
Provide all data, assumptions and calculations relied upon. Provide the source of and basis for all data and assumptions employed. Include all studies, reports and planning documents from which data, estimates or assumptions were drawn, and support for how the data or assumptions were used in developing the projections or estimates. Provide and explain all supporting work-papers.
5. The term "document" is used in its broadest sense and includes, without limitation, writings, drawings, graphs, charts, photographs, phono-records, microfilm, microfiche, computer printouts, correspondence, handwritten notes, records or reports, bills, checks, articles from journals or other sources and other data compilations from which information can be obtained and all copies of such documents that bear notations or other markings that differentiate such copies from the original.
6. If the Company finds that any one of these requests is ambiguous, please notify the Hearing Officer so that the request may be clarified prior to the preparation of a written response.

7. Please serve a copy of the responses on Mary Cottrell, Secretary of the Department; also submit one (1) copy of the response to: (1) Elizabeth Cellucci, Hearing Officer; (2) Betty Jackson, Natural Gas Division; (3) Cynthia Bradbury, Natural Gas Division; (4) Becky Hanson, Legal Division; (5) Andreas Thanos, Natural Gas Division.
8. Responses are due by 5 p.m., Tuesday, October 28, 2003.

- DTE 1-1 Refer to page 4 of the Plan. Please give a detailed explanation of how the Company arrived at the monthly base use for its customers.
- DTE 1-2 Refer to page 5 of Blackstone Gas Company's 2003 Integrated Resource Plan ("Plan"). The Company states that it used weather data collected at the West Medway station. Please provide the following information:
- a. Is the station private or government owned?
  - b. If privately owned, please name the owner.
  - c. Is the station maintained on a regular basis?
  - d. Have there been any problems with mechanical equipment recently? Also, have there been any problems with the actual measurement reporting?
  - e. If so, please send documentation.
- DTE 1-3 Refer to page 6 of the Plan. The Company has decided to use a 71 HDD standard for its peak day requirement. Please explain in detail how this figure was derived.
- DTE 1-4 Refer to page 9 of the Plan. Identify the driving forces behind the 0.27% annual increase in commercial customer consumption.
- DTE 1-5 Refer to page 11 of the Plan:
- a. Which customer inquired about transportation service?
  - b. When did this inquiry occur?
  - c. Specifically, what rate information was given to the customer?
  - d. What was the difference between the customer's costs of sales service and the transportation service?
- DTE 1-6 Referring to page 11 of the Plan, please explain in detail the phrase "the Company does not pay demand charges as all the transportation charges are volumetric".
- DTE 1-7 Refer to pages 11-12 of the Plan and the two-tier contract with Duke Energy that expires in 2005.
- a. What actions has the Company taken to assure a least-cost supply of natural gas when the Duke Energy contract expires?
  - b. In the company's last RFP, were there other parties that expressed interest in a supply contract with the Company? If yes, please list the names of these parties.
  - c. Does the Company expect the same level of interest to be shown during an RFP process that would occur upon expiration of the contract?

- DTE 1-8 Referring to page 13 of the Plan, please state why the Company would not issue an RFP upon expiration of the current Duke Energy contract which expires in 2005.
- DTE 1-9 Referring to page 13, please indicate when the Duke Energy contract will be finalized and when the Company will submit it to the Department.
- DTE 1-10 Refer to the cover letter accompanying the Company's Cost Of Gas Adjustment Clause Reconciliation filing on September 19, 2003. The Company refers to billing problems with the Company's supplier, Duke Energy.
- a. Do any current problems exist with supply metering?
  - b. If problems currently exist, what is the Company's plan of action to address these problems?
  - c. Was the previous metering problem accounting discrepancy fully corrected? If so, please discuss how the issue was resolved. If not, please discuss the major points of disagreement.
- DTE 1-11 Referring to Table G-5 (actual peak sendout) of the Plan, explain why the 1998 data has not been submitted. If available, please submit the data.